

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 13 are amended, and new claims 16-17 are added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 6-10, 13, and 15-17 are pending and under consideration.

Rejection of claims 1-4, 8-13 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,662,022 issued to Kanamori et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kanamori"). This rejection is being respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 are cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 5 and claim 10 has been amended to include the features of claim 14. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 1 and 10 are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 8 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference.

Kanamori does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "a controller controlling the individual volume controllers to make the selected sound input channel have a normal volume level and to lower the output volume levels of unselected input channels below a predetermined volume level...wherein the controller controls the individual volume controllers to restore the output volume level of a new selected sound input channel to the initial volume level stored in the memory, wherein the new selected sound input channel is one of the unselected sound input channels selected by the selection part, and wherein the selection part allows a user to select the selected sound input channel and the new selected sound input channel," as recited in claim 4.

Kanamori discloses a portable telephone for talking and playing music. In item 2 on page 4, the Office Action asserts that col. 6, lines 44-48 and col. 7, lines 1-25 teaches restoration of the output volume level of a new selected sound input channel. However, Kanamori only teaches selecting music followed by automatic operations taken when a phone call is received. According to Kanamori, when a phone call is received, the music may be automatically lowered. Although a user may initially select the music, col. 6, lines 44-48 and col. 7, lines 1-25 of Kanamori indicates that the portable telephone automatically lowers the volume of the selected music when receiving a telephone call instead of a user selecting the new selected sound input channel.

Kanamori does not disclose, "wherein the controller controls the individual volume controllers to restore the output volume level of a new selected sound input channel to the initial volume level stored in the memory...wherein the selection part allows a user to select the selected sound input channel and the new selected sound input channel, " as recited in claim 4. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 4 is patentably distinguishable from Kanamori.

Similarly, Kanamori does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "enabling a selection of one of the sound input channels by a user; controlling the individual volume controllers to make the selected sound input channel have a normal volume level and to lower output volume levels of unselected input channels below a predetermined volume level; ...controlling the individual volume controllers to restore the output volume level of a new selected sound input channel to the initial volume level stored in the memory, wherein the new selected sound input channel is one of the unselected sound input channels and the new selected sound input channel is selected by a user," as recited in claim 13. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 13 is patentably distinguishable from Kanamori.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 14 under 35 U.S. C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanamori in view of U.S. Patent 6,445,802 issued to Dan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 14 are cancelled. Claim 1 includes the features of claim 5 and claim 10 includes the features of claim 14.

As indicated in item 4, the Office Action Kanamori does not disclose the features of claim 5 and 14. Applicant respectfully submits that Dan does not cure the deficiencies of Kanamori.

As discussed above, Kanamori discloses a portable telephone for talking and playing music. However, Dan discloses a sound volume-controllable telephone and facsimile machine as shown in Dan's figures. Dan controls the production of ear-offensive monitoring sounds associated with the transmission and reception of signals.

Kanamori and Dan, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the controller controls the individual volume controllers to restore the output volume levels of the unselected sound input channels to the initial volume levels stored in the memory, when the selected sound input channel is released from the selection, and wherein the selection part allows a user to select the selected sound input channel," as recited in claim 1.

In item 4, the Office Action notes that Kanamori does not disclose the restoration of the

output volume levels of the unselected sound input channels to the initial volume levels stored in the memory. Applicant respectfully submits that Dan does not disclose a plurality of individual volume controllers. In addition, the Office Action does not provide a reason why one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have combined Dan and Kanamori.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Similarly, Kanamori and Dan, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "enabling a selection of one of the sound input channels by a user; controlling the individual volume controllers to make the selected sound input channel have a normal volume level and to lower output volume levels of unselected input channels below a predetermined volume level; ...controlling the individual volume controllers to restore the output volume levels of the unselected sound input channels to the initial volume levels stored in the memory when the selected sound input channel is released from the selection by the user," as recited in claim 10. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 10 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 6, 7, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 7, and 15 under 35 U.S. C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanamori in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0118848 to Karpenstein. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kanamori and Karpenstein, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the controller controls the individual volume controllers to restore the output volume levels of the unselected sound input channels to the initial volume levels stored in the memory, when the selected sound input channel is released from the selection, and wherein the selection part allows a user to select the selected sound input channel," as recited in claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 6 and 7 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Similarly, Kanamori and Karpenstein, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "controlling the individual volume controllers to restore the output volume levels of the unselected sound input channels to the initial volume levels stored in the memory when the selected sound input channel is released from the selection the user," as recited in claim 10.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 10 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 15 depends from claim 10 and includes all of the features of claim 10. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 15 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Official Notices

Applicant respectfully requests that the Official Notices taken by the Examiner be withdrawn and references supplied for any assertions made by the Examiner.

Summary

Claims 1, 4, 6-10, 13, and 15-17 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

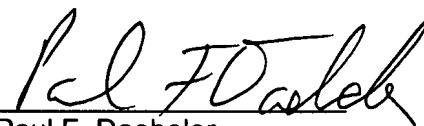
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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